

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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THE REPTILES AND BATRACHIANS OF VICTORIA  
AND REFUGIO COUNTIES, TEXAS.

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This paper contains a partial list of the reptiles and batrachians of Victoria and Refugio counties, which are situated in the coast region of southern Texas. While neither county reaches the gulf coast proper, the southeastern part of Victoria touches Lavaca Bay, and Refugio has quite a coast line along San Antonio and Copano bays. To Hon. J. D. Mitchell of Victoria, Victoria County, is due the credit for the work in that county and I am much indebted to him for notes and specimens. During the years 1896 and 1897 Mr. James J. Carroll collected a number of reptiles in Refugio County. These are now in the Baylor Museum, but are all in a poor state of preservation. During 1904 I spent the period from March 10th to April 1st at a point about five miles from the town of Refugio. During my stay I collected quite a series of reptiles, but on account of the drouth I found very few batrachians. On June 20th of the same year I returned and devoted thirty days to collecting. This last visit was productive of splendid results as I succeeded in obtaining a number of interesting batrachians and several species of snakes, lizards and turtles that I had not found during my previous stay.

Refugio, the county-seat of Refugio County, is an old mission town, and is commonly referred to by the natives as "the mission."

1. SPECIES FOUND IN BOTH COUNTIES.

REPTILES.

*Alligator mississippiensis* Daudin.      *Sceloporus spinosus* Wiegmann.  
*Anolis carolinensis* Cuvier.            *Phrynosoma cornutum* Harlan.

<i>Opheosaurus ventralis</i> L.	<i>Lampropeltis getulus holbrooki</i> Holbrook.
<i>Cnemidophorus gularis</i> B. and G.	<i>Heterodon platyrhinus</i> Latreille.
<i>Liolepisma laterale</i> Say.	<i>Elaps fulvius</i> Linn.
<i>Eumeces quinquelineatus</i> L.	<i>Ancistrodon piscivorus</i> Lacepede.
<i>Eutaenia proxima</i> Say.	<i>Ancistrodon contortrix</i> L.
<i>Eutaenia elegans marcianna</i> B. and G.	<i>Sistrurus miliaris</i> L.
<i>Tropidonotus sipedon transversus</i> Hallowell.	<i>Crotalus atrox</i> B. and G.
<i>Storeria dekayi</i> Holbrook.	<i>Terrapene ornata</i> Agass.
<i>Coluber spiloides</i> D. and B.	<i>Pseudemys texana</i> Baur.
<i>Pityophis catenifer sayi</i> Schlegel.	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i> Linn.
<i>Zamenis flagellum flagellum</i> Shaw.	<i>Aromochelys tristycha</i> Agass.
<i>Cyclophis aestivus</i> L.	<i>Aspidonectes emoryi</i> Agass.

## BATRACHIANS.

<i>Ambystoma microstomum</i> Cope.	<i>Hyla cinerea</i> Daudin.
<i>Siren lacertina</i> L.	<i>Acris gryllus crepitans</i> Baird.
<i>Bufo lentiginosus americanus</i> LeC.	<i>Engystoma carolinense</i> Holbrook.
<i>Bufo compactilis</i> Wieg.	<i>Rana pipiens</i> Shrebér.
<i>Bufo valliceps</i> Wieg.	<i>Rana catesbiana</i> Shaw.

## 2. SPECIES RECORDED FROM REFUGIO COUNTY ONLY.

## REPTILES.

<i>Holbrookia propinqua</i> B. and G.	<i>Tropidonotus rhombifer</i> Hallowell.
<i>Sceloporus consobrinus</i> B. and G.	<i>Salvadora grahamiae</i> B. and G.
<i>Eumeces tetragrammus</i> Baird.	<i>Kinosternon louisianae</i> Baur.
<i>Tropidonotus clarkii</i> B. and G.	

## BATRACHIANS.

<i>Bufo debilis</i> Girard.	<i>Scaphiopus holbrooki</i> Harlan.
<i>Smilisca baudinii</i> D. and B.	<i>Scaphiopus couchii</i> B. and G.

## 3. SPECIES RECORDED FROM VICTORIA COUNTY ONLY.

## REPTILES.

<i>Glauconia dulcis</i> B. and G.	<i>Farancia abacura</i> Holbrook.
<i>Eutaenia sirtalis</i> L.	<i>Sistrurus catenatus consors</i> B. and G.
<i>Tropidonotus sipedon fasciatus</i> L.	G.
<i>Haldea striatula</i> L.	<i>Crotalus horridus</i> L.
<i>Lampropeltis doliatus gentilis</i> B. and G.	<i>Kinosternon flavescens</i> Agass.
<i>Lampropeltis doliatus doliatus</i> L.	<i>Pseudemys elegans</i> Wied.

## BATRACHIANS.

<i>Diemyctylus viridescens</i> Raf.	<i>Chorophilus triseriatus</i> Wied.
<i>Diemyctylus meridionalis</i> Cope.	<i>Hyla squirella</i> Bosc.

## NOTES.

**Alligator mississippiensis** Daudin.

The alligator is still tolerably common in some portions of Refugio County, notably on the Mission River several miles below the town of Refugio and in some of the small lakes. I have the skull of a twelve-foot specimen shot on Sous Creek.

**Holbrookia propinqua** B. and G.

There is a single specimen in the Baylor Museum, collected on a small rocky cliff on the Arroyo Blanco, about six miles from the mission, by James J. Carroll.

**Sceloporus consobrinus** B. and G.

I found this lively little fence lizard quite common on Mr. Barber's place, about five miles from the mission, but did not see it anywhere else. Most of my specimens were captured on rail-fences and around old logs in the woods. Mr. Barber's wood-pile yielded me an adult pair. These specimens were all very dull colored.

**Opheosaurus ventralis** L.

Mr. Mitchell informs me that both the lineated (western) and checkered (eastern) forms of the glass snake occur at Victoria.

**Cnemidophorus gularis** B. and G.

All of the lined swifts I collected in Refugio County are very typical *gularis*, although I had expected to find *serilineatus* the prevailing form. Femoral pores, 16 to 19.

**Eumeces quinquelineatus** L.

I was surprised to learn from Mr. Mitchell that this lizard was common in Victoria County. I saw but one specimen in Refugio. It was of the "fasciatus" (young) type of coloration.

**Eumeces tetragrammus** Baird.

One typical specimen from near Refugio.

**Eutaenia sirtalis** L.

On the list furnished me by Mr. Mitchell, this snake is called *Eutaenia sirtalis sirtalis* L. on the authority of Dr. Stejneger. Some of the specimens submitted to me by Mr. Mitchell were fairly typical *sirtalis*, but two half grown examples were very near the variety *parietalis* Say. I obtained a large series of *Eutaenias* in Refugio County, but did not succeed in collecting any specimens of this variety.

**Tropidonotus clarkii** B. and G.

A mutilated specimen of a longitudinally banded *Tropidonotus* found near Copano Bay is referred to this species.

**Tropidonotus sipedon fasciatus L.**

None of the water snakes collected by me are referable to this subspecies, but Mr. Mitchell has sent me a very typical adult specimen from Victoria. I found the subspecies *transversus* Hallowell very common along the water courses in Refugio County, and later Mr. Mitchell secured specimens near Victoria. As a rule the two varieties do not occur together.

**Tropidonotus rhombifer Hallowell.**

Very common in Refugio County. This species is very prolific. I have 36 young specimens about five inches in length that were taken from the body of a female thirty-four inches long.

**Haldea striatula L.**

Mr. Mitchell recently sent me an adult female containing seven embryos. This is our only record.

**Coluber spiloides D. and B.**

This large Coluber is an abundant species in both counties and is notorious as a destroyer of young fowls. On Mr. Barber's farm I captured a large specimen in the act of robbing a turkey's nest. It had already swallowed one egg, but on being disturbed, disgorged it. Mr. James J. Carroll tells an amusing incident of one of these snakes. He had collected a number of hawk's eggs and after removing their contents, laid them in a plate and placed them near a window to dry. He left the house for a short time and on his return found that one of the eggs had disappeared. He retired to the next room and remained perfectly quiet for a few minutes, and was rewarded by the appearance of a Coluber, which at once attempted to steal a second egg-shell but was summarily disposed of by the indignant ornithologist.

**Farancia abacura Holbrook.**

In November, 1905, Mr. Mitchell sent me a description of a snake captured at Aloe, Victoria County. From the description, I referred it to *Farancia*. Later, Dr. L. O. Howard, Entomologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, examined the specimen and confirmed my identification. This is, I believe, the first authentic record of its occurrence in Texas.

**Sistrurus catenatus consors B. and G.**

In the transactions of the Texas Academy of Science for 1902 (p. 27) Mr. Mitchell reports the capture of a specimen of this species at Victoria.

Rev. A. H. Barber informs me that a rattlesnake, from the description of which I take to be this species, is found in the coast region of Refugio County, near Copano Bay.

***Crotalus adamanteus* Beauvois.**

This species is recorded by Mr. Mitchell as having formerly been rather common in the timbered belts along the coast region in Harris, Matagorda, Lavaca, Jackson, Victoria and Calhoun counties. He states that its habits are different from those of *Crotalus atrox* which occurs in the prairie district of the same section.

***Crotalus horridus* L.**

Mr. Mitchell writes me that five specimens of this rattlesnake have been taken in Victoria County since 1902.

***Kinosternon louisianae* Baur.**

I collected a typical specimen of this turtle on the Arroyo Medio, about five miles from Refugio.

***Kinosternon flavescens* Agassiz.**

Mr. Mitchell has collected several specimens at Victoria. Two of these are now in the Baylor Museum.

***Chelydra serpentina* L.**

Dr. A. E. Brown in his list of Texas reptiles (Texas reptiles and their faunal relations. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., 1903, p. 552) excludes this species on the ground that he has seen no record of exact localities. I have collected specimens at Burnet, Burnet County, Waco, McLennan County, San Antonio, Bexar County and in Bee and Refugio counties. Mr. Mitchell has collected it in his county, also.\*

***Bufo debilis* Girard.**

I collected a single specimen in Refugio County during a heavy rain. It was the only one noted during my stay.

***Hyla squirella* Bosc.**

Mr. Mitchell recently captured two specimens at Victoria, one of which he kindly presented to me. He informs me that the color, in the living specimen, was pale canary.

***Hyla cinerea* Daudin.**

Mr. Mitchell sent me a rather peculiar, light colored specimen which he informed me was yellow in life. It is rather heavier built than the average *H. cinerea*, but otherwise shows little variation from the ordinary type. This species varies in color from yellow and light pea-green to dark oil-green; the labial stripe and spots from white to deep yellow.

\* I have a specimen of *Xerobates berlandieri* Agass. from a point in Live Oak County much farther north than the southern part of Refugio, and natives of the latter county who have examined it claim that it occurs there also.

**Smilisca baudinii** D. and B.

Three specimens from Mr. Barber's farm near Refugio. One of these was found hanging to the side of a frame building, the others were captured on the ground, in the woods.

**Chorophilus triseriatus** Wied.

One specimen of the "*clarkii*" (spotted) type from Victoria.

**Scaphiopus holbrookii** Harlan.

Cope states that the range of the eastern spadefoot includes Texas, but in all the herpetological literature at my disposal I fail to find mention of a single specimen having been collected at any point in the State. One night in June, 1904, I collected a typical adult, together with numerous specimens of *Bufo compactilis* Wieg., *Bufo valliceps* Wieg. and *Scaphiopus couchii* B. & G., in a wooded pasture near Mr. Barber's home.